

Application No. 09/683,967
Docket No. A1-1423
Amendment dated December 30, 2003
Reply to Office Action of November 7, 2003

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-53 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that a previous restriction requirement was withdrawn, claims 5 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, and all of the claims were rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims 1-22 of co-assigned U.S. Patent No. 6,477,901 to Tadigadapa et al.

In response, Applicant has canceled claim 23 as being redundant in view of its parent claim 20, amended claims 5 and 24 to use terminology consistent with the claims from which they depend, and further amended claim 24 to depend from claim 20 instead of now-canceled claim 23. Finally, Applicant is filing herewith a terminal disclaimer pursuant to 37 CFR §1.321(b), which terminally disclaims that portion of any patent which issues from the present application which extends beyond the termination date of Tadigadapa et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is respectfully requested, and all remaining claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

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Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicant's representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Terminal Disclaimer under 37 CFR §1.321(b)